



Eugene Outdoors!

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks



Spring News 2003

INSIDE NEWS

"Talking Stones"	2
Prairies and Oak Savannas	3
Ridgeline Trail Map	4-5
Volunteer Projects	6, 7
Urban Forester Column	7
Calendar	8



Public Works Department
Parks and Open Space
1820 Roosevelt Boulevard
Eugene, Oregon 97402

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

CAR-RT SORT

Prsrt Std
US Postage Paid
Eugene, OR
Permit No. 360

A VIEW FROM THE RIDGELINE

The Ridgeline Park system is one of Eugene's treasures. Spencer Butte stands sentinel over our city, and the forested arms of the ridgeline reach east to Moon Mountain and west to the headwaters of Willow Creek, embracing our community in its fold. The ridgeline offers sweeping vistas and over 14 miles of trails, teeming with natural beauty; filters our air and water; and provides unique habitats for an abundance of plants and animals. It functions as a wildlife corridor and as a buffer between the city and country.

We owe Eugene's forebears a debt of gratitude for their foresight in preserving Spencer Butte. A major portion of it was purchased between 1939 and 1940 through a grassroots campaign that collected contributions no larger than \$5 in order to let everyone "buy a piece" of the butte. Additional acquisitions were made between 1970 and 1995, extending the park holdings northwest to Blanton Ridge and northeast to Mount Baldy. By 1998, the ridgeline encompassed 685 acres. As the city expanded, so did the vision of what the Ridgeline Park could be. Today, a regional recreational and ecological **greenway** is envisioned, connecting Fern Ridge Reservoir in the west to Mt. Pisgah in the east.

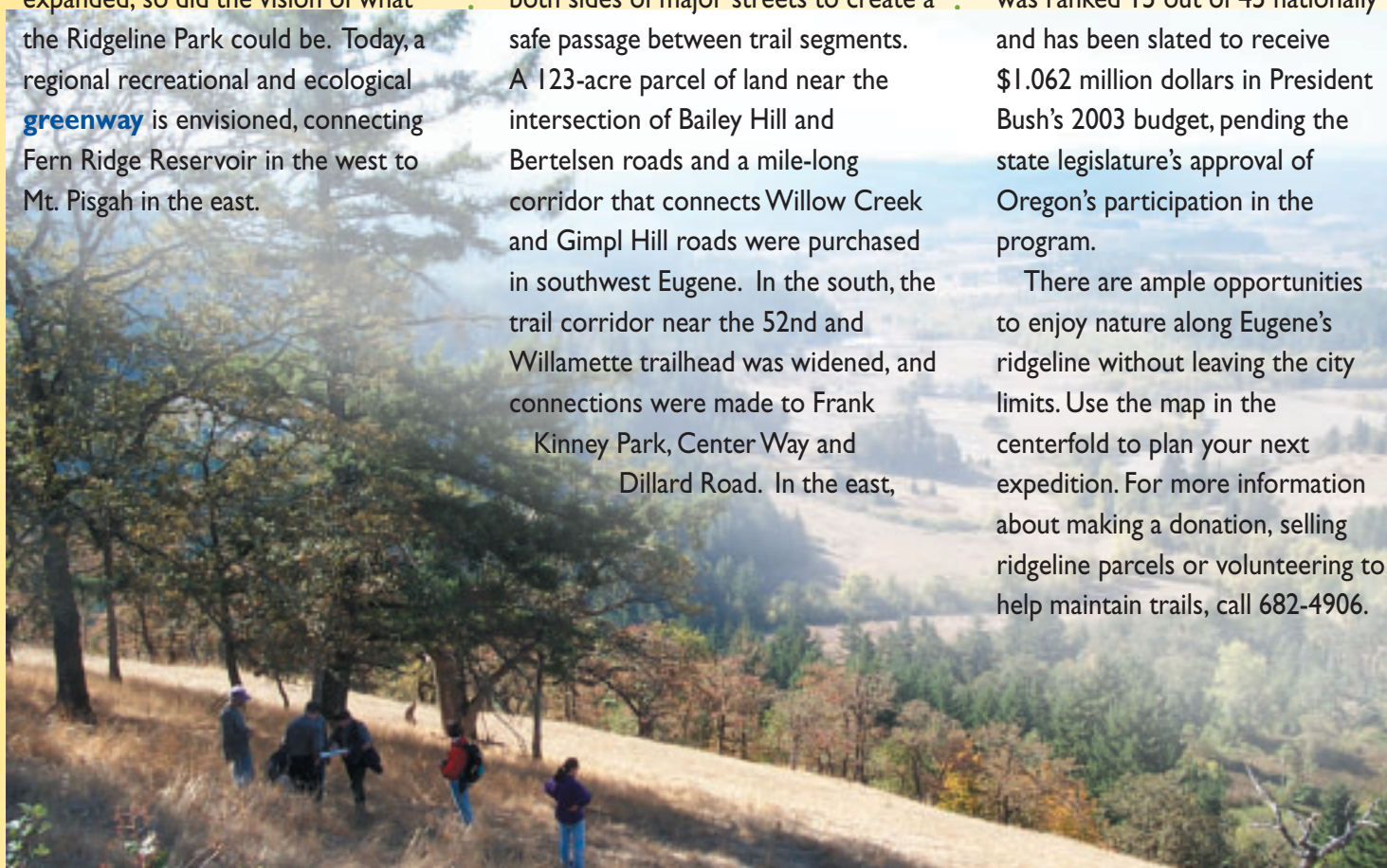
With the passage of the Parks and Open Space bond measure in 1998, Eugene voters designated \$3.72 million to acquire 232 more acres of the ridgeline. Because of favorable transactions and generous donations, over 354 acres have been added to the system to date, and parks staff hopes to keep working with willing landowners to add additional properties.

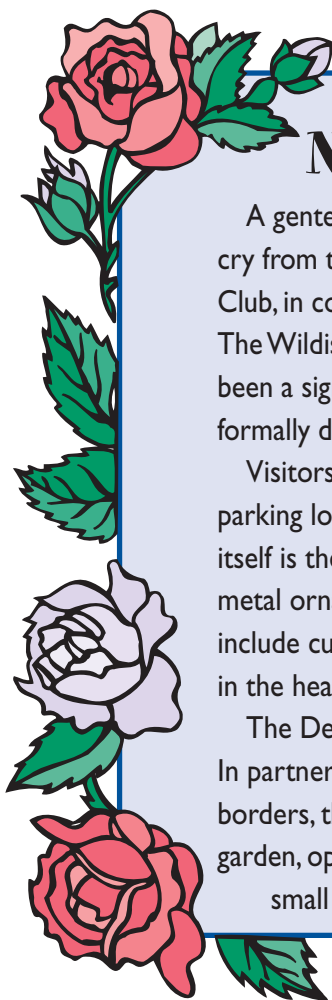
You can see these new additions on the map in the centerfold of this newsletter. They are indicated in dark green. Properties were acquired on both sides of major streets to create a safe passage between trail segments. A 123-acre parcel of land near the intersection of Bailey Hill and Bertelsen roads and a mile-long corridor that connects Willow Creek and Gimpl Hill roads were purchased in southwest Eugene. In the south, the trail corridor near the 52nd and Willamette trailhead was widened, and connections were made to Frank Kinney Park, Center Way and Dillard Road. In the east,

the ridgeline was connected to Hendricks Park. Additionally, Moon Mountain, which is located at the far eastern edge of the Ridgeline Trail, was purchased.

Most of this newly acquired land is not currently accessible, but, thanks to an Oregon State Recreation Trails Program grant, trail work has begun (see pages 4-5). In addition, the City hopes to leverage bond dollars with federal monies through the federal Forest Legacy Program. Eugene's proposal was ranked 15 out of 45 nationally and has been slated to receive \$1.062 million dollars in President Bush's 2003 budget, pending the state legislature's approval of Oregon's participation in the program.

There are ample opportunities to enjoy nature along Eugene's ridgeline without leaving the city limits. Use the map in the centerfold to plan your next expedition. For more information about making a donation, selling ridgeline parcels or volunteering to help maintain trails, call 682-4906.





NEW GAZEBO IN THE HEART OF THE ROSE GARDEN

A genteel gazebo at Owen Rose Garden will soon be unveiled and allure visitors with the promise of cool refreshment under its shaded eaves. It's a far cry from the pre-fabricated gazebo package that arrived at the rose garden on a flatbed semi-truck last November. Members of the Eugene Delta Rotary Club, in collaboration with parks staff, have labored for months to assemble this very large erector set. Generous contributions from Scharpf's Twin Oaks, The Wildish Company, Edwin & Marie Baker, Builder's Electric, and River Roofing have also been a significant factor in making the completion of the gazebo possible. The gazebo will be formally dedicated June 6.

Visitors can find the gazebo by strolling down the pergola pathway from the rose garden parking lot. The path that leads to the gazebo is on the west side of the path. The gazebo itself is the shape of a hexagon, 28 feet in diameter with a clearstory, cupola and custom metal ornamental railing and will eventually have lighting and a power supply. Future plans include cultivating this section of the garden with heritage roses so that the gazebo will sit in the heart of the garden, creating a beautiful setting for weddings and family gatherings.

The Delta Rotary adopted Owen Rose Garden as a community service project in 1999. In partnership with the City, they have decorated the rose garden with trellises, rose bed borders, the pergola, and most recently the gazebo. If you'd like to be a part of the new rose garden, opportunities are still available to purchase personalized benches, tiles, pavers, and small landscaped beds. For more information, call 682-4907.



MEADOWLARK PRAIRIE RESTORATION CELEBRATED

Meadowlark Prairie, a 400-acre site of recently restored wetlands near Royal Avenue and Greenhill Road was dedicated on May 12. Congressman Peter DeFazio, a key supporter of the project; Mayor Jim Torrey; and top officials from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrated National Wetlands Month by honoring the accomplishments of the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership (WEWP) at Meadowlark Prairie.

A key aspect of the project was the restoration of a large expanse of native prairie. Numerous plants and animals that once thrived in the Willamette Valley's clay soil, such as tufted hairgrass, camas lily and Oregon's state bird, the western meadowlark, now have a better chance of long-term survival. In addition, the wetlands improve water quality through filtration by plants and provide flood water storage. The project also includes an extension of the Fern Ridge bike path, a wildlife overlook, interpretive signage about the important cultural and ecological aspects of wetlands, bronze artwork depicting wetland wildlife, and a webcam at www.ci.eugene.or.us/wewetlands/cams/prairiecam.htm.

WEWP is a partnership between the City of Eugene, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. It has one of the most successful track records of any similar program in the region and is considered a national model for innovative and collaborative wetlands management.



A PLACE TO LAUNCH

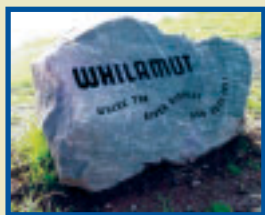
The new boat ramp in Alton Baker Park is completed and ready for use from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. A



public dedication, featuring various recreational craft, will be held Saturday May 31, at 11 a.m.

The ramp can be reached by entering the park on Day Island Road from the Club Road entrance. Take Day Island east past the parking lot and look for the new launch road on the right. Built for non-motorized craft, such as drift boats, canoes, kayaks, and rafts, the facility will now provide first-class river access to safely begin a float trip on the Willamette River. Fishing, bird watching and other nature appreciation activities on the river are now accessible from Alton Baker Park.

"TALKING STONES" BEAR WORDS FROM THE EARLY INHABITANTS OF THE REGION



Through a collaborative effort between the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, and the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park Citizen Planning Committee, eleven "Talking Stones," basalt boulders with Kalapuya word engravings, were installed in both the Eugene and Springfield portions of the natural area last

winter. The stones are carved with a Kalapuya word and the English translation, e.g., "Illio," meaning "joyful," and "Whilamut," meaning "where the river ripples and runs fast." A tour and dedication of the Talking Stones will be held Saturday, May 31, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. respectively.

The purpose of the project is to provide an historical appreciation of the early inhabitants of this area. Kalapuya elder Esther Stutzman consulted on the project to determine names and appropriate stone locations. The project also provides a link

between Eugene and Springfield, which share this riverfront parkland.

Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park is the eastern section of Alton Baker Park, encompassing 237 acres dedicated for passive recreation and habitat restoration. It was recently given a Kalapuya name to recognize the native people who hunted, fished and gathered camas bulbs on this land and demonstrated their reverence and stewardship of the land.

For more information, call 682-4914.



“Nature will always exist, of course, but whether Eugene’s natural environment will be dominated by dandelions and starlings or camas and meadowlarks will depend upon the decisions and actions of current and future citizens.”

—Ed Alverson, *The Nature Conservancy*, from the book *Eugene 1945-2000: Decisions That Made a Community*

OAKS AND GRASSES AND FIRES ...OH MY!

If you rolled into town in your wagon in the early 1800s and took a gander at the south hills of Eugene, you would have seen a landscape very different from the one you see today. Of course, you would not have seen the houses, but, surprisingly, you would not have seen the forest either. Instead, you would have seen vast prairies and savannas with scattered oak, pine and fir trees. This is because native people used to burn the prairies and savannas regularly. The fires kept the conifers at bay but provided conditions that benefited oak trees and helped regenerate prairie grasses and wildflowers.

Conditions have changed since that time. After about 1850, Euro-American settlers began a tradition of fire suppression to protect people and property. Without fire, the conifers have been allowed to grow unchecked, and the prairies and oak savannas have converted to forest ecosystems. While forest ecosystems provide ecological benefits of their own, it is important to realize that development, natural **succession**, and the proliferation of invasive species have resulted in the loss of over 99 percent of the prairies and oak savannas that dominated the Willamette Valley only 150 years ago. The loss of these ecosystems has severely impacted many native plant and animal species unique to the Willamette Valley. For example, populations of Western grey squirrels are steadily declining and are now listed by the state as a “sensitive” species. Roemer’s fescue, a native bunchgrass, once dominated the prairie, but now only a handful of populations remain in Eugene.

The remnants of prairies and oak savannas in the Eugene area represent some of the best examples of these endangered habitat types in the world. Their extinction would have significant cultural, economic and ecological implications for our community and beyond. These ecosystems provide an important link to the cultural history of the area and are an integral part of why Native Americans lived in this area for thousands of years and why the early settlers created a community here. In fact, the area’s natural assets are a key factor in the city’s high livability rating, which continues to attract people to Eugene and contribute to its economy. Ecologically, the existing prairies and oak savannas represent one of the last remaining sources of seeds and plant material for a variety of species that will be lost from

the genetic pool should these habitats disappear altogether. On a larger scale, the loss of these habitats could lead to costly and undesirable changes to the local water cycle, nutrient cycle, climate, and soil processes.

Eugene’s Parks and Open Space Division is concerned about these issues and has begun to repair and restore some of these special ecosystems through many diverse projects:

- ◆ Invasive, non-native species, such as blackberries, thistle and Scotch broom, are being removed (visit Morse Ranch Park or the lower prairie of Spencer Butte to see evidence of this work).
- ◆ Encroaching Douglas firs are being thinned and viewsheds restored (find out about viewshed restoration plans at Skinner Butte at www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/sbp/sbp_mp_ch5.pdf).
- ◆ Native plants are being salvaged and native seed collected, and these species are being propagated at the City’s native plant nursery.
- ◆ Prescribed fire has been used to reduce encroaching woody species in the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park.
- ◆ Certain areas in parks, such as Westmoreland and Amazon, are mowed less frequently, or mowing is postponed until August to allow wildflowers and grasses to grow, plants to set seed, birds and their young to finish nesting, and insects to reproduce.

The next time you are walking along the Ridgeline Trail or at Spencer Butte, take a moment to notice open areas where trees are sparse. You may see the flowers of the bright pink checkermallow or catch a glimpse of the orange and brown field crescent butterfly. If you are interested in volunteering to care for these threatened natural areas or would like to learn more about restoration efforts in our community, call 682-4800.

Trevor Taylor is a natural resources coordinator for Parks and Open Space with masters degrees in Environmental Studies and Ecology and Evolution from UO. He works closely with parks staff and other departments and agencies to manage and restore City-owned natural areas. When asked why he chose this type of work, Taylor responded, “I am interested in ecological restoration and in finding ways that we can be good neighbors to the diversity of species with which we share our home here in Eugene.”

Eugene Outdoors! is published semiannually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene’s parks and open space and encourage the community to enjoy our recreational facilities, parks and natural areas. Let us know what you think about Eugene’s parks and open space. Contact us by phone, mail, e-mail, or through the web.

City of Eugene
Public Works Department
Parks and Open Space Division
1820 Roosevelt Boulevard, Eugene, Oregon 97402
(541) 682-4800 • Fax (541) 682-4882
E-mail: pos@ci.eugene.or.us
www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks
Therese Picado, Editor
Kim Mast, Graphic Designer

TRAILS WELL TRAVELED AT THE TOP OF SPENCER BUTTE

If you have hiked to the top of Spencer Butte, you probably noticed the web of trails that emanate from the main trail at the rocky outcrop near the top of the butte. In addition to confusing hikers, these offshoots lead to widespread trampling across this fragile rocky ecosystem, causing permanent damage to rare lichen, moss and other plant communities.

During this past year, the University of Oregon Service Learning Program teamed up with the City of Eugene to study the impacts of park users at the top of Spencer Butte. The student team spent hundreds of hours on the mountain interviewing park users and observing trail use patterns. Using this information, the team recommended which trails the City should manage as main trails and which ones should be closed. They also suggested sites for interpretive and directional signage at strategic locations along the trail to better identify the main trail and discourage off-trail exploration. The study will serve as a springboard to more actively address some of the more detrimental user impacts to this ecological gem in our Ridgeline Park system.



THE RIDGELINE TRAIL

HISTORIC TRAIL TO BE RESTORED AT HENDRICKS PARK

The Parks and Open Space Division, in partnership with REI, the Friends of Hendricks Park and several generous sponsors, will hold a trail-building work party in Hendricks Park on May 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers will resurrect a trail to the oak knoll in the southwestern corner of the park that has been there since 1915. The trail used to lead to a lookout tower, but the tower collapsed, and the trail became overgrown by 1975. The oak knoll is a highly sensitive remnant of Willamette Valley oak woodlands habitat, which was once a

prominent part of the valley landscape. Today, only about one percent of this forest type remains in the entire valley and it is considered globally endangered.

Environmentally sensitive techniques will be used to forge a trail into this relatively inaccessible and delicate area. Volunteers will learn about the abundance of native plants in this vanishing forest ecosystem and how to protect them. Poison oak is among the native plants that covers the forest floor in the oak knoll area. Because it plays an important role in providing food and cover for native animal species, the trail will avoid the plant as much as

possible. Future trail users will be encouraged to stay on the trail, both to protect the sensitive native plants and to protect themselves from contact with poison oak.

For more information about the project and about the free LTD shuttle to Hendricks Park, call REI at 465-1800 or visit www.rei.com or www.friendsofhendrickspark.org.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Stay on the trail. Exploring is fun, but off-trail use leads to degradation of habitat, destruction of native plants and soil erosion, and it takes only a few other people treading on an “alternate” route or around the trail to cause significant damage to the trail and surrounding habitat. In addition, trails other than the designated trail may contain hazards, such as poison oak.

Keep your dogs on a leash. Dogs are welcome on the ridgeline but must be kept on a leash. Dogs trample vegetation and can scare wildlife or other trail users.

Take pictures, not flowers. Help preserve the natural beauty for others to enjoy.

No fires. Fires of any kind are prohibited in all seasons. Even smoking is prohibited during high-risk fire season.

Pack out your trash. Keep Ridgeline Park as pristine as possible.

Bikers should always yield to pedestrians. Mountain bikes are allowed between Fox Hollow and Dillard roads and Dillard Road and Spring Boulevard only.

Be prepared. Ridgeline trails are built on soft soils and are heavily used in the winter. Trails can be steep, rocky, muddy, and may contain other hazards. Wear sturdy boots and be prepared for a rugged experience.

SOME RIDGELINE TRAILS TO EXPLORE...

These trail recommendations come from Jesse Cary-Hobbs, Natural Resource Maintenance Specialist. Cary-Hobbs is a passionate advocate of Eugene's natural areas on the job and off. When he's not working to preserve them, he's out enjoying them. Cary-Hobbs can be reached at 682-4828.

Mt. Baldy Trail

For a short hike or mountain bike ride with a view, try the 1.15-mile Mt. Baldy segment of the Ridgeline between Dillard Road and Spring Boulevard. This sparsely-treed butte is reminiscent of the hills the pioneers saw when they arrived in Eugene and has spectacular views of the Cascades.

A Hike in the Neighborhood

This 1.9-mile hike, from Fox Hollow Road to Willamette Street, features old-growth firs and transports you deep into the forest far from the hustle and bustle of the city. This trail crosses

the small seeps and seasonal creeks that together flow from the base of Spencer Butte to form Amazon Creek.

Spencer Butte Trail

The best, well-earned view to share with visiting friends and family lies at the top of Eugene's most prominent peak, Spencer Butte. It's a challenging 1.5 miles from the main parking lot off of Willamette Street to its fragile, wildflower-covered, rocky summit, but the reward from the top is worth the travail. From the summit, you get a bird's eye view of Eugene, the southern terminus of the Willamette

Valley, the coast range, and the snow-covered Cascades.

Skinner Butte Trail

A universally accessible view of the city can be found atop Skinner Butte. The butte is accessible by foot or by car.

ROUGH-SKINNED NEWT



Willow Creek Rd

West 18th Avenue

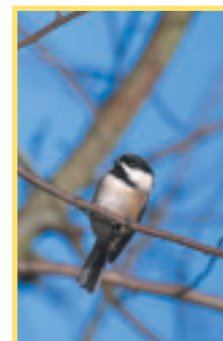
Willow Creek Road

1,031'

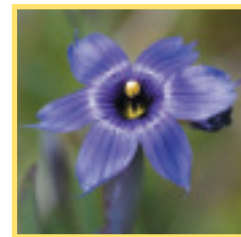
1,180'▲
Murray Hill

Gimpl Hill Road

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



BLUE-EYED GRASS



1,046'▲
Bailey Hill

843'▲

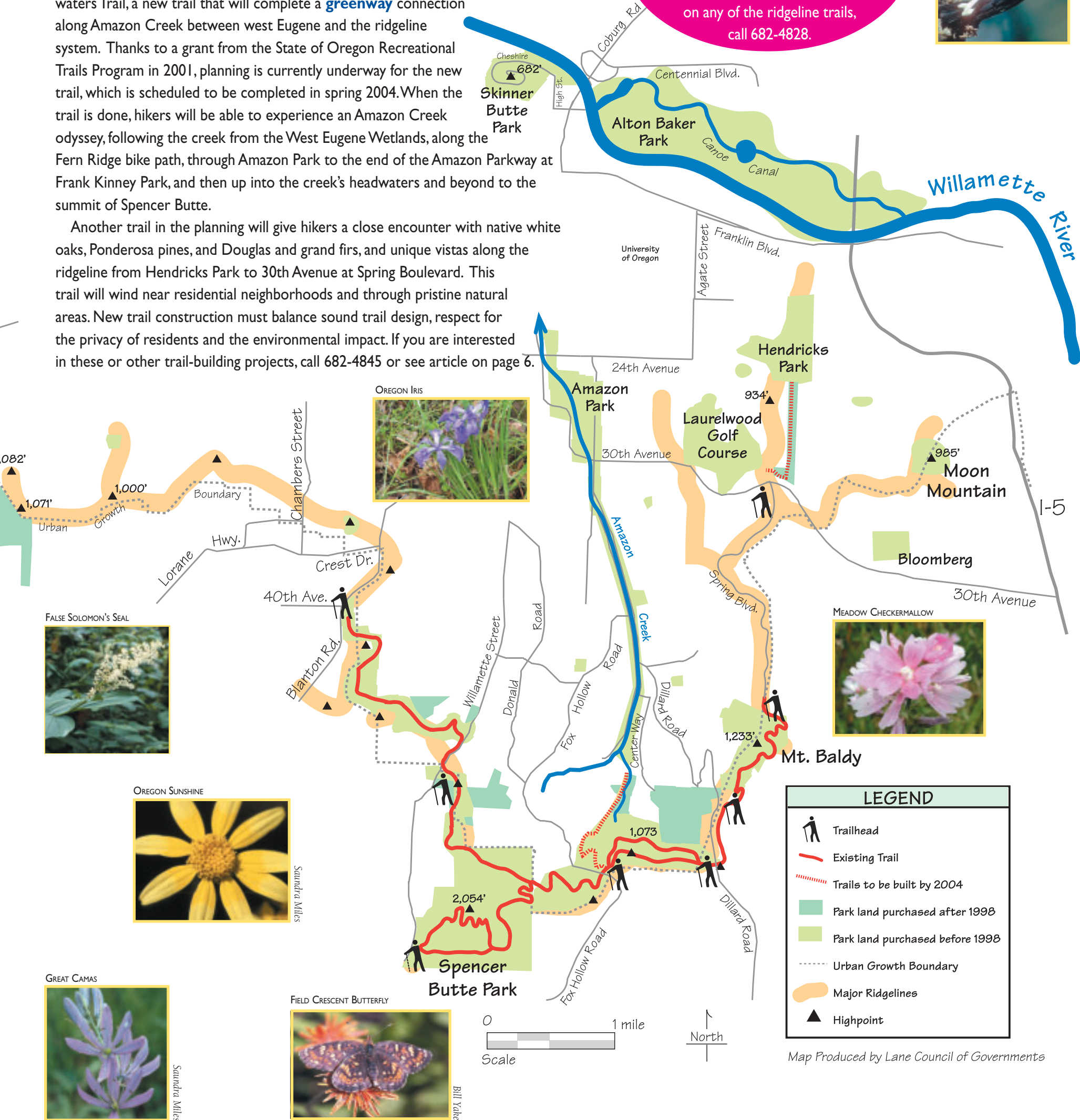
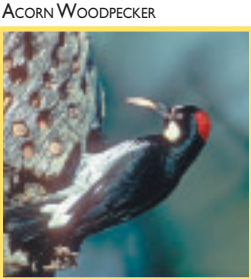
MORE RIDGELINE ADVENTURES COMING SOON

Hiking enthusiasts have about a year to get in shape to trek the Amazon Headwaters Trail, a new trail that will complete a **greenway** connection along Amazon Creek between west Eugene and the ridgeline system. Thanks to a grant from the State of Oregon Recreational Trails Program in 2001, planning is currently underway for the new trail, which is scheduled to be completed in spring 2004. When the trail is done, hikers will be able to experience an Amazon Creek odyssey, following the creek from the West Eugene Wetlands, along the Fern Ridge bike path, through Amazon Park to the end of the Amazon Parkway at Frank Kinney Park, and then up into the creek's headwaters and beyond to the summit of Spencer Butte.

Another trail in the planning will give hikers a close encounter with native white oaks, Ponderosa pines, and Douglas and grand firs, and unique vistas along the ridgeline from Hendricks Park to 30th Avenue at Spring Boulevard. This trail will wind near residential neighborhoods and through pristine natural areas. New trail construction must balance sound trail design, respect for the privacy of residents and the environmental impact. If you are interested in these or other trail-building projects, call 682-4845 or see article on page 6.

RIDGELINE HOTLINE

We need your help! If you come across a downed or hazardous tree, a failing section of trail, a broken bridge board, or any other maintenance issues on any of the ridgeline trails, call 682-4828.



HELP TUGMAN PARK AND DELTA PONDS GET A FACELIFT

This summer and fall, volunteers are needed to help restore two special waterways in our city—a small creek and wetland at Tugman Park, a neighborhood park in south Eugene, and the extensive wetland system at Delta Ponds in the Valley River Center area.

At Tugman Park, a small creek that runs through the park will be re-engineered to allow it to meander more naturally and create a wetland area. Stream Team volunteers will help re-create a variety of wetland habitats by helping to collect seed and salvage native plants for propagation at the volunteer-run native plant nursery. After construction, these salvaged plants will be planted, and the restored site will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance. Stream Team is actively recruiting a group and/or individuals to adopt the Tugman Park wetland and help shepherd this long-term project. Interested community groups and volunteers will be supplied with the necessary tools, gloves, education, and technical support to undertake this effort, which not only enhances the beauty of a local community park but improves water quality and wildlife habitat.



The Downtown Lions Club is joined by community volunteers and the Cascade Canoe Club for a cleanup of the paths and islands at Delta Ponds.



Village School fourth graders begin enhancement of wetland by salvaging plants for nursery bed.



Students from Betsy Halpern's biology class at South Eugene High School volunteer at the Native Plant Nursery.

HELP MAINTAIN AND BUILD RIDGELINE TRAILS

Since its inception, Ridgeline Park has attracted people who love to hike and bike. The in-town location of the trail, combined with spectacular views of the Willamette Valley, Coast Range and Cascade Mountains, creates the magical feeling of being transported far away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

With this magnetic drawing power, it is easy to see why the Volunteers in Parks program has hosted

over 80 volunteer trail renovation and construction work parties since 1998.

Currently, the Ridgeline Trail system consists of 14 miles of trail that winds east to west along Eugene's south ridgeline. With this expanse of trail to maintain, City Parks and Open Space staff



Members of the UO's Kappa Sigma Fraternity work on the Ridgeline Trail.

look to volunteers to help construct and maintain the trail. Many groups and individuals have participated in trail projects by building raised trail beds and **turnpikes** and installing drain culverts, while others have helped with trail assessment, design and Global Position System (GPS) mapping, which helps determine optimal trail location and elevation gains. All of these volunteer efforts have helped mitigate the impact of the heavy rainfall of the Pacific Northwest, the **hydrology** of the ridgeline, and the heavy use the trails receive by minimizing the mud hikers encounter, preventing erosion and degradation of the trail, protecting sensitive native plants by closing unofficial trail routes, and improving access at trail heads.

To visit the sites of some of these volunteer efforts on the ridgeline, drive to one of the following trailheads: Fox Hollow and Christensen roads; Spencer Butte, off Willamette Street; Blanton Heights; or Dillard Road, off East Amazon Drive.

For more information about participating in volunteer trail projects, contact Volunteers in Parks Coordinator Chris Girard at 682-4845.



NEIGHBORWOODS BLAZES NEW “TRAILS” WITH SOME HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Now in its eleventh year, the NeighborWoods program continues to blaze new trails while building upon its foundation of helping residents plant and care for street trees in front of their homes. In partnership with the Eugene Tree Foundation, NeighborWoods is now in its fifth year of the Trees for Concrete program, a program in which a more livable and green urban environment is created by excavating planting spaces and planting trees and flowers in sidewalks in Eugene’s more densely-developed areas.

NeighborWoods coordinated three Trees for Concrete projects this year, with new trees at W. 5th and Charnelton, at E. 18th Avenue between Pearl and Oak streets, and further south on Willamette, between 24th and 26th. At this last event, Mayor Torrey celebrated this year’s Arbor Day by helping to plant 30 trees and accepting Eugene’s 24th Tree City USA Award. A Trees for Concrete project at 3rd and Lawrence recently won a state urban forestry award for best project by a civic organization. This work would not have been possible without the cooperation of area businesses, property owners, neighbors, residents, and volunteers. Stop by some of these sites, and see how previously drab urban areas have been transformed into beautiful and more pedestrian-friendly walkways.

Thanks to all our friends, over 400 trees were planted at six different project sites and in neighborhoods across the city. All these efforts have gone a long way toward helping Eugene recover from the February 7 windstorm of last year. Keep up the good work!



Youth make a difference by planting trees on City View.

For those of you who are tending a street tree, be sure to give it some TLC this spring. Many horticultural practices that might seem right can actually be harmful to your tree. For tips on properly caring for your young tree, see the Volunteer’s Pledge at www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/tree/freetree.htm.

GLOSSARY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE TERMS

All glossary words appear in this issue in **blue bold**.

- greenway**: a corridor of undeveloped land, as along a river or between urban centers, that is reserved for recreational use and/or environmental preservation.
- hydrology**: the study of the cycle of water movement on, over, and through the earth’s surface. The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water.
- succession**: 1) The development of a plant community from its initial stage to its climax stage; usually from one consisting of grasses and forbs to one of shrubs and, finally, to forest. However, depending on the climate, the climax stage may consist of a prairie, savanna, or any number of other ecosystems. 2) The changes in the species composition of communities following a natural or human disturbance like the natural filling of a pond or the clearing of a road through a forest.
- turnpike**: In trail lingo a turnpike consists of a frame typically made of native materials such as logs or rocks, with soil or rocks over geotextile (filter cloth) in the middle. The purpose is to elevate hikers above wet or unstable soil to protect the trail.

REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR URBAN FORESTER...

Trails at Your Doorstep

I was hitchhiking from D.C. to Ontario one August day in 1973. I was passing beautiful agricultural land in Pennsylvania. But, it was hot. I approached a farm shed and was greeted by a young boy, who offered to fill my canteen. As I savored the taste of the ice-cold spring water, the boy asked where I was going. “Canada,” I said. His eyes widened; his jaw dropped. He turned his head to look up the dusty asphalt road in front of his house and exclaimed, “You mean *THIS* is the road to Canada?”

The next time you step out your door, look up your street. It goes to the coast, to the Cascades, to the ridgeline trails arcing our city. Your sidewalk is an urban trail. The street trees do many of the same things forests do in the hills. They filter our air, giving us oxygen to breath, while absorbing air pollutants. Trees help reduce stormwater runoff by intercepting rainfall, improving water quality in our rivers. Trees shade us, while providing shelter and habitat for other plants and animals.

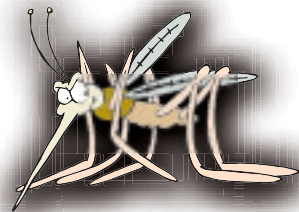
Down the block, where there’s a break in the canopy, enjoy the panorama of the hills. Our tree laws were designed to protect our view of the ridgelines. Even in winter, I am astounded by the beauty surrounding us. From the parking lot outside my office, I still find myself inspired by gray clouds wreathing the green south hills like a pearl necklace. Step outside and look up your street for a different view sometime soon! Savor it.

PREPARING FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN EUGENE’S PARKS

For the past year, parks staff have been tracking the West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne disease, as it has spread through 44 states and have developed a response plan for park and open space land in the event the virus arrives in Oregon this year. Related to encephalitis, the virus primarily affects birds. In humans, it typically does not result in any symptoms but can cause mild, flu-like symptoms and, in very rare cases, can be fatal. Since the disease was first reported in the United States in 1999, 284 people have died from the virus, while more than 30,000 people die each year from the common flu.

Lane County Health Services is leading the countywide response effort. Parks staff have supported the effort by researching the virus and implementing a strategy that emphasizes prevention and is proportional to the risk the virus poses. Preventive measures include identifying places where mosquitoes breed in developed parks, such as trash barrels, buckets, and rain gutters, and draining them if possible. If it is determined that the virus poses a significant hazard in these areas, mosquito populations may be managed by utilizing the least toxic intervention in order to protect the safety of people, pets and wildlife. Minimal, if any, intervention is recommended in natural areas because mosquitoes are controlled most effectively by the mosquito predators that live there, such as dragonflies, spiders, bats, birds, frogs, and salamanders. No intervention is required in streams, creeks and rivers because mosquitoes do not breed in active, flowing water.

For more information about the virus in parks, call 682-4880. For information about precautions residents can take, call 682-4041 or visit www.lanecounty.org/CAO_PIO/westnilevirus/wnv_main.htm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

April 27-May 30

West Eugene Wetlands Photo Exhibit, Café Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway, 345-1632.

May 16

Fly by the Light of the Moon, explore the world of owls, BLM Yurt, 751 S. Danebo, 7p, bring flashlight and binoculars, 683-6494.

May 17

Birding Trip, Stewart Pond parking lot on Stewart Road east of Bertelsen Road, 7a, 683-6494.

Race Against Racism, sponsored by the UO YWCA, Alton Baker Park, registration 9a, race 11a, 346-4439.

Great Strides Benefit Walkathon for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Amazon Park Trails, check-in at 9a at South Eugene H.S., (800)448-8404.

Compost Workshop, River House, 301 N. Adams, 10-11:30a, 682-5542.

Rhododendron Pruning Workshop, Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park, 10a-noon, 682-5324.

Discovering Dragonflies Walk, end of Wallis and 5th Ave., 1p, 683-6494.

May 18 - Oct 26

Mercado Latino, Latin market experience for the whole family, Washington/Jefferson Park, every Sunday through Oct. 26, 10a-4p, 345-7106.

May 18

Hendricks Park Tours, wildflower tour at 11a, rhododendron tour at 1p, meet at Wilkins Shelter, 682-5324.

Wetlands Tour for Families, 1p, pre-register at 682-4850.

May 20

Rhododendron Pruning Workshop, 1-3p, see May 17.

May 21

“*Readings from the Wetlands*,” essays about the West Eugene Wetlands, BLM Yurt, 751 S. Danebo, 7-8p, 683-6494.

May 22

Oregon Parks & Recreation Trail Planning Public Workshop, 1820 Roosevelt Blvd, 6p, (503)378-4168, ext. 305

May 28

“*Amphibians and Reptiles of the West Eugene Wetlands*,” BLM Yurt, 751 S. Danebo, 7-8p, 683-6494.

May 31

Riverwalk, 5K run, Alton Baker Park, registration 8:30a, www.goodrace.com, www.hivalliance.org or 342-5088.

May 31 (continued)

Trail Building Day with REI and Friends of Hendricks Park, Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park, 8:30a-1:30p, 465-1800.

Talking Stones Dedication, Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park, “artwalk” at 10a in Springfield’s Eastgate Woodlands and dedication at Nearby Nature’s park host residence at 2p, 682-4914.

Spring Butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands, 3-hour field trip, BLM Yurt, 751 S. Danebo, 1p, pre-register at 431-7388.

Alton Baker Park Boat Launch Dedication, off of Day Island Road, 11a, 682-4814.

June 7

American Heart Walk, Alton Baker Park, 10a-noon, register at www.heartwalk.kintera.com/eugeneor

Amazon Appreciation Day, 9a-1p, call for specific project locations, 682-4850.

June 7-8

Horseshoe Pitching Competition, Washington/Jefferson Park, check-in 8:30a, pre-register at 688-7520.

June 8

Chapin Clark River Run, register at 8a, race at 9a, 686-1842.

June 14

Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party, W. 18th Ave., just west of Bertelsen, 9:30a-noon, 682-4927.

Compost Workshop, Grass Roots Garden, 1465 Coburg Rd., 10-11:30a, 682-5542.

Steep Hill Chase 5K Challenge, Lane Co. Special Olympics, Alton Baker Park, register 7:30a, race at 9a, www.goodrace.com or 343-7414.

Juneteenth BBQ/Celebration, sponsored by Black Heritage Family, Alton Baker Park, noon-3p, 334-6290.

June 21

PRIDE Day, Alton Baker Park, noon-6p, \$5 suggested donation, 342-1490.

June 22

Vitality Run/Walk, Alton Baker Park, register at noon, race at 1p, pre-register at Downtown Athletic Club, 484-4011.

New Horizons Band, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

June 23-27

Summer Blast Off! Fun for All, free, drop-in summer recreational programs at Monroe, University, Washington, State Street, Sladden, Mangan Street, and Petersen Barn parks, as well as Irving Elementary and Cal Youth and Churchill sports parks; 10a-5p; 682-5361.

June 28

3rd Annual Water Rescue Safety Day, music, food, demonstrations and life-jacket give-a-ways, Alton Baker Park, 10a-4p, 682-7100.

Compost Workshop, see listing May 17.

Walk With Me Marathon and Half-Marathon Walk/Run, Alton Baker Park, 6:45a-4p, pre-register, 684-4951.

June 29

One More Time Marching Band, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

June 30-July 3

International Adventures, Fun for All, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks (see June 23-27), 10a-5p, 682-5361.

July 4-6

Art & the Vineyard, art, wine, and music festival, Alton Baker Park, 11:30a-8:30p, \$5/day or \$8/3-day pass, 345-1571.

July 4

Freedom Festival, Alton Baker Park, fireworks at 9:45p

Eugene Symphonic Band, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

July 6

Springfield Community Concert Band, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

July 7-11

Amazing Acts, Fun for All, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks (see June 23-27), 10a-5p, 682-5361.

July 8

The Sugar Beets, acoustic dance band, Amazon Center, 6:30p, 682-5373.

July 10

Etouffee, hot Cajun swamp rock, Petersen Barn, 6:30p, 682-5521.

July 12

Wagon Train, dog run, 2K fun walk, 5K race, Alton Baker Park, register at 8a, race 9a-noon.

Willow Creek Volunteer Work Party, see June 14.

Compost Workshop, see listing June 14.

July 13

Emerald Renaissance Band, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

July 14

Birds of Hendricks Park, Eugene Library, 7p, 607-4066.

July 14-18

Eco-Zone, Fun for All, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks (see June 23-27), 10a-5p, 682-5361.

July 15

Swing Shift, big band hits, Westmoreland Center, 1545 W. 22nd, 6:30p, 345-9939.

July 16

Touch-A-Truck, fire engine, cement truck, sweeper, Petersen Barn Center, 5-7:30p, 682-5521.

July 17

Deb Cleveland, R&B and Soul, Sheldon Community Center & Pool, 6:30p, 682-5312.

July 19

Summer Volunteer Days at Hendricks Park, Wilkins Shelter, 9a-1p, 682-5324.

July 20

Brass Aspirations, classical concert, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

July 21-25

Ready...Set...Go! Fun for All, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks (see June 23-27), 10a-5p, 682-5361.

July 22

Skip Jones & the Spirit of New Orleans featuring Paul Biondi, Amazon Center, 6:30p, 682-5372.

July 24

Valley Boys, Rock & Roll, Petersen Barn Park, 6:30p, 682-5521.

July 26

Obon and Taiko Festival, Alton Baker Park, 5-9p, 461-9405.

July 27

Recovery Rocks Celebration, picnic and auction, Alton Baker Park, noon-7p, 343-2993.

Oregon Tuba Ensemble, Washburne Park, 6:30p, 344-0483.

July 28-August 1

Animal Antics, Fun for All, drop-in summer recreational program in city parks (see June 23-27), 10a-5p, 682-5361.

July 29

Summer Jam: Rap, R&B, & Soul, Churchill Youth Sports Park, 6:30p, 682-6367.

July 31

Shelley James Musicbox, originals, classic pop and dance covers, Sheldon Community Center & Park, 6:30p, 682-5333.